

## Meet Our Partners – Mauritius – Dr. Jabeen Soobratty



### 1. How did people in Mauritius respond to the research and data collection?

We gave the participants a short briefing on the purpose of the survey. It was a new concept for them. They asked a lot of questions about the questionnaire itself.

However, they participated positively. The students were interested though they couldn't understand fully the concept of emotional learning. They found the questions interesting, reflecting a lot on their daily life and encounters in a multicultural context.

The teachers said the questionnaire was too long, especially they had limited time to fill the questions because of work constraint.

### 2. Are there any success stories or challenges you can share about conducting this type of survey?

The Covid-19 Pandemic, in Mauritius was one of the major challenges. We had to conduct the survey under various lockdowns and restrictions in 2020. But our major strength was the fact that Mauritius is a small island, and we had a very close network of students and teachers, we managed to circulate our questionnaires and collected them.

Mauritius is a multicultural island and Muslims are a minority. When we conducted the survey, we included also non-Muslim participants. Indeed, for us it is a success story to be able in a classroom to create an inclusive atmosphere. After completing the questionnaire teachers said the students were reflecting on the questions and discussing with their friends. For example: does your attitude or reaction with your family differ when you are with friends, neighbors etc.

### 3. What are some of the implications of this research for your community in Mauritius?

As the coordinator I have presented a paper on this research at a conference in Oct 2020 in Mauritius. We are still at the stage of disseminating information about this research to Educational Institutions in Mauritius. However, this year also the various lockdowns have hindered our work.

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*Dr. Jabeen Soobratty, CILL, University of Mauritius, coordinates AEMS research in Mauritius. Her paper, "Social and Emotional Learning in a Multicultural Setting: A Case Study of Muslim Students in Mauritius," was presented at the 2020 Symposium on Muslim Philanthropy and Civil Society hosted by the Journal of Education in Muslim Societies at Indiana University.*